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Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee

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"Each state . . . shall establish a state occupational information coordinating committee . . . this committee shall implement an occupational information system in the state . . ."

—Vocational Education Amendments of 1976 (P.L. 94-482)

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Functions

In order to develop an occupational information system, the Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC):

1. Encourages and assists the development of occupational data specific to Montana. Examples of such data are

   • occupational supply (how many workers are in or entering Montana's labor force with the skills necessary for the jobs that exist or will need to be filled here) and

   • occupational demand (what jobs exist in Montana, how many job openings are likely to occur in the future, in what occupations).

2. Analyzes occupational data. For example, an occupational supply-demand analysis would identify how well Montana's supply of workers fits the jobs available here.

3. Provides occupational information to those who need or request it. Individuals who decide what courses will be offered through education or employment training programs could use supply-demand reports to identify courses that should be dropped from or added to their curricula. Individuals deciding to train for a specific occupation could tell whether the competition for jobs in that occupation is likely to be above average, average or below average.

Current Emphasis

The Montana SOICC is currently concentrating on the development of basic data essential to an occupational information system. Thus, the SOICC is working with several agencies to assist them in developing occupational supply data for Montana. Likewise, the SOICC is encouraging the improvement of current and projected occupational demand data for Montana.

The SOICC is also sponsoring a study to determine if it is feasible to implement a statewide Career Information Delivery System. Such a system would provide accurate, up-to-date, labor market and educational information to people who are choosing jobs or careers.

How You Can Help

As noted above, a major SOICC function is to provide occupational information to those who need it. You can help the SOICC perform this function more effectively by telling us what kinds of information would be most useful to you. When you need occupational information, please visit the SOICC office on the fourth floor of the Employment Security Building, corner of Lockey and Roberts, Helena, or write to us at the address below:

Montana SOICC
P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 449-2741

Montana State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee

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Purpose

The need for occupational information has grown dramatically over the last fifteen years. As stated by the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor,

> *If education and training are ever to be related to current and prospective occupational needs, a single occupational coordinating system is of paramount importance.*

In the Vocational Education Amendments of 1976, Congress responded to this need by establishing the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC) and by requiring the creation of a State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (SOICC) in each state. The purpose of NOICC and the SOICCs is to develop a coordinated occupational information system that will relate education and training programs to current and prospective occupational needs.

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